

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-42 (canceled).

Please add the following new claims:

43. (NEW) A filter cartridge comprising:

a) a body portion for enclosing filter media for filtering a fluid;

b) a neck portion including an inlet port for directing unfiltered fluid into the body portion and an outlet port for directing filtered fluid out of the body portion, the neck portion having at least two lugs depending radially outwardly therefrom, each lug having engagement surfaces which face away from the body portion, at least one of said engagement surfaces defining a keyed surface formation which enables the cartridge to mate with a compatible reception assembly.

44. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 43, wherein each lug has an inclined cam surface axially spaced from the body portion and facing toward the body portion in a generally axial direction for cooperating with camming ramps on the compatible reception assembly.

45. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 43, wherein each lug has an engagement surface defining a keyed surface formation.

46. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 45, wherein the keyed surface formation on each lug of the cartridge is substantially similar.

47. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 45, wherein the keyed surface formation on each lug of the cartridge is different.

48. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 43, wherein the neck portion has a pair of diametrically opposed lugs.

49. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 43, wherein the neck portion has three circumferentially spaced apart lugs.

50. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 43, wherein the neck portion has first and second pairs of diametrically opposed lugs, wherein the first pair of lugs is disposed at a first height on the neck portion and the second pair of lugs is disposed at a second height on the neck portion.

51. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 43, wherein the keyed surface formation is on an axially facing engagement surface of the lug.

52. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 43, wherein the keyed surface formation is on a radially facing engagement surface of the lug.

53. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 43, wherein at least a first portion of the keyed surface formation is on an axially facing engagement surface of the lug and at least a second portion of the keyed surface formation is on a radially facing engagement surface of the lug.

54. (NEW) A filter cartridge comprising:

- a) a body portion for enclosing filter media for filtering a fluid; and
- b) a neck portion including an inlet port for directing unfiltered fluid into the body portion and an outlet port for directing filtered fluid out of the body portion, the neck portion having at least two lugs depending radially outwardly therefrom, each lug having radial and axial engagement surfaces facing away from the body portion, at least one of said engagement surfaces defining a keyed surface formation which enables the cartridge to mate with a compatible reception assembly.

55. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 54, wherein each lug has an inclined cam surface axially spaced from the body portion and facing

toward the body portion in a generally axial direction for cooperating with camming ramps on the compatible reception assembly.

56. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 54, wherein each lug has an engagement surface defining a keyed surface formation.

57. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 56, wherein the keyed surface formation on each lug of the cartridge is substantially similar.

58. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 56, wherein the keyed surface formation on each lug of the cartridge is different.

59. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 54, wherein the neck portion has a pair of diametrically opposed lugs.

60. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 54, wherein the neck portion has three circumferentially spaced apart lugs.

61. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 54, wherein the neck portion has first and second pairs of diametrically opposed lugs, wherein the first pair of lugs is disposed at a first height on the neck portion and the second pair of lugs is disposed at a second height on the neck portion.

62. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 54, wherein the keyed surface formation is on the axial engagement surface of the lug.

63. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 54, wherein the keyed surface formation is on the radial engagement surface of the lug.

64. (NEW) A filter cartridge as recited in Claim 54, wherein at least a first portion of the keyed surface formation is on the axial engagement surface of the lug and at least a second portion of the keyed surface formation is on the radial engagement surface of the lug.